<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A ring selection method for node-to-node packet transmission in a dual ring network including a plurality of transmission nodes and reception nodes, said method comprising:

(a) transmitting a reception node address request message for packet transmission to all the nodes, and updating a routing table using information on a short path transferred from the reception node;

(b) using information on inter-node hop numbers included in the routing table to select a ring having the lowest hop number between the reception nodes;

(c) determining whether or not the selected ring is wrapped, <u>selecting the other ring when the selected ring is wrapped and and</u> if the selected ring is not wrapped, comparing its usage rate and hop number with reference values based on a ring selection algorithm, <u>wherein said usage rate is an allowable transmission rate per node according to a fairness algorithm,</u> said ring selection algorithm

i) calculating a transmission coefficient using the hop number and delay time based on a path between the reception nodes, and the inter-node usage rate,

ii) storing the calculated transmission coefficient in the routing table, and

iii) selecting a ring having the lowest transmission coefficient stored in the routing table as the reference value; and

(d) if the selected ring resulting from said using and said determining is suitable

for packet transmission, using the selected ring for packet transmission.

wherein the transmission coefficient is determined with reference to the hop number between the transmission node and the reception node, the usage rate of each node, and the inter-node delay time

2. (Original) The ring selection method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in (a), each of the transmission and reception nodes have a topology map including information on inter-node hop numbers, port information, MAC address, and wrapped-or-not information.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The ring selection method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the comparing with the reference values in (c) comprises:
determining whether or not the selected ring from said using and the ring selected by the ring selection algorithm have the same reference values.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The ring selection method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the usage rate and the transmission coefficient are calculated in a predetermined cycle, and updated in the routing table.

7. (Original) The ring selection method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: selecting the other ring when the selected ring is wrapped.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a ring for transmitting packets in

a dual ring network comprising:

if neither ring is wrapped:

a) calculating a transmission coefficient for each ring based on for each node in each ring, a hop number, a usage rate and a delay time, wherein said usage rate is an allowable transmission rate per node according to a fairness algorithm;

b) selecting the ring with the lowest calculated transmission coefficient for transmitting packets.

wherein each of the nodes has a topology map including information on inter-node hop numbers, port information, MAC address, and wrapped-or-not information.

9. (Original) The method defined by claim 8 wherein said hop number and said usage rate are determined with reference to values in a routing table.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method defined by claim 8, wherein said selecting comprises:

calculating a transmission coefficient for each of the nodes, storing the calculated transmission coefficient in a routing table, and selecting a ring having a lowest transmission coefficient stored in the routing table.

12. (Original) The method defined by claim 8, wherein the usage rate and the transmission coefficient are calculated in a predetermined cycle, and updated in the routing table.